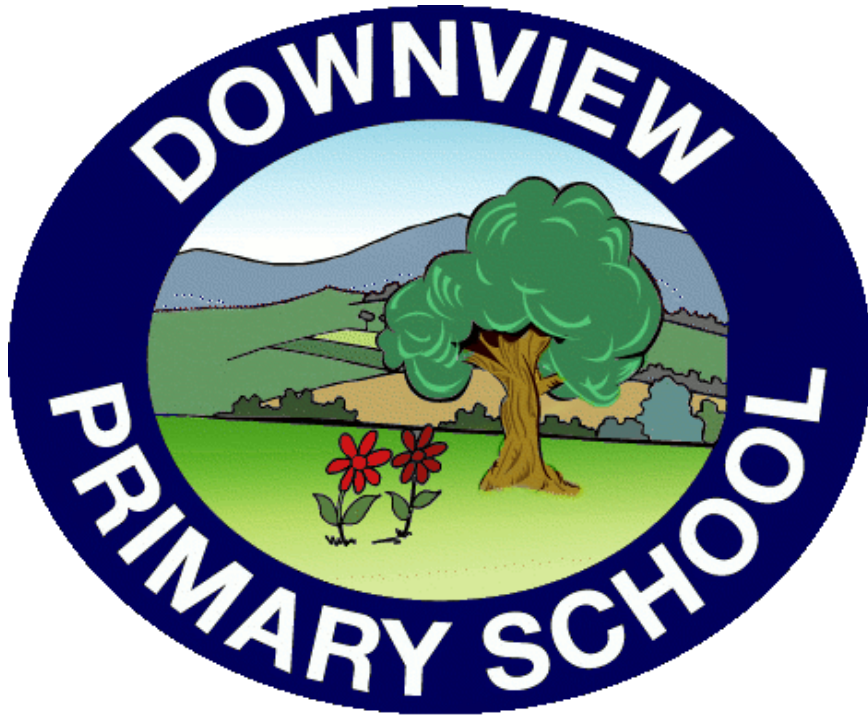


Lead member of staff	Head Teacher
Date of publication	September 2024
Review date	September 2026



Religious Education Policy

September 2024

Downview School: Religious Education Policy

Introduction

At Downview Primary School, RE supports and strengthens the vision, ethos and values which are at the heart of what we aim to do in every aspect of school life. The importance placed on the development of the whole child spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually is reflected in the RE curriculum.

Aims

Specifically, RE aims to enable pupils of all abilities and stages of development to:

- Develop knowledge and understanding of Christian beliefs and practices so that they understand the importance of the Bible, the role of the church and recognise that for Christians their faith provides a way of interpreting life and its meaning.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of some of the other principal religions in Britain.
- Understand how belief may impact on culture, relationships, values and lifestyle.
- Understand how belief can be expressed in a variety of ways including art, dance, music, ritual celebration and in different cultural settings.
- Develop spiritually, morally, culturally and socially by helping them to reflect upon personal feelings, responses and relationships.
- Explore ways in which religious values and teaching have an impact on actions and decisions for people of faith
- Be supported in their own search for meaning and purpose in life.
- Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery.
- Explore concepts of love, forgiveness and sacrifice.
- Develop skills of reflection, empathy, communication, analysis, investigation, interpretation, evaluation and synthesis.
- Develop attitudes of respect, sensitivity, open-mindedness and self-esteem.

Through Religious Education we can also:

- Improve pupils' skills in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT
- Develop pupils' critical thinking skills
- Promote pupils' awareness and understanding of gender, cultural, spiritual and moral issues
- Develop pupils as active citizens

Organisation of Religious Education within the Curriculum

Religious Education at Downview is sometimes linked with other foundation subjects, particularly History, PSHE, Music, D.T Art .

Teaching & Learning - Strategies for the teaching of Religious Education

The scheme of work for RE will maintain a balance between the two attainment targets: Learning about Religions and Learning from Religions.

We base our teaching and learning style in RE on the key principle that good teaching in RE allows children both to learn about religious traditions and to reflect on what the religious ideas and concepts mean to them. There will be clear learning outcomes for all units of work, based on the appropriate expectations/levels as set out in the RE syllabus

and the scheme of work will ensure that there is continuity and progression for pupils and opportunities for assessment in both attainment targets.

Our teaching enables children to extend their own sense of values and promotes their spiritual growth and development. We encourage children to think about their own views and values in relation to the themes and topics studied in the RE curriculum. Our teaching and learning styles in RE enable children to build on their own experiences and extend their knowledge and understanding of religious traditions. We use experiences at religious festivals such as Easter, Diwali, Passover etc. to develop their religious thinking. Children will study particular religious faiths and also compare the religious views of different faith groups on topics such as rites of passage or festivals. Children discuss religious and moral issues and we recognise the fact that all classes in our school have children of widely differing abilities, and so we provide suitable learning opportunities for all children by matching the challenge of the task to the ability of the child.

Progress in RE will form part of pupils' annual report to parents.

The role of the Religious Education co-ordinator is to:

- Support colleagues in teaching the subject content and developing their skills in planning, teaching and assessing R.E.
- Renew, update and oversee the audit of resources needed to deliver the curriculum
- Monitor and evaluate the learning and teaching of R.E.
- Develop assessment and record keeping ensuring progression and continuity
- Keep abreast of developments in the teaching and learning of R.E.

Assessment

At the end of each year, class teachers will assess their children in Religious Education and complete a progression of skills document. In this document, the teacher assess against the key skills, whether the children are working towards year group expectation, working at the expected level or working above the expected level for Religious Education.

SEN

We teach Religious Education to all children, whatever their ability, in accordance with the school curriculum policy of providing a broad and balanced education to all children.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils at Downview have equal access to the facilities available, regardless of gender or nationality. When working in groups the teacher ensures that children take turns and share the equipment fairly. Teachers also give pupils opportunities to work individually to complete tasks by themselves.

Resources

The Religious Education resources are kept in a central store accessibly to all staff. Members of staff can request new Religious Education resources each year from the R.E budget.

Health and Safety

Children are taught to be respectful of other pupil's beliefs and cultures.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Religious Education leader is responsible for the standard of children's work and the quality of teaching in R.E. The work of the subject leader also involves supporting colleagues in the teaching of Religious Education.

Reviewed: September 2024

To be reviewed: September 2026